

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 7 and 13-15 are amended herein. Claims 16-19 are new. No new matter is added.

Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,119,123 (Elenbaas et al.). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The prior art does not address both grouping and reordering content in a content stream based upon user content preferences to improve content delivery. The present invention provides a method, apparatus and article of manufacture for improved delivery of content to a requesting computer connected to a communications network by a communications device by sending, from the requesting computer, a request for content and a plurality of content preferences. A content stream representing the content is then received on a communications device. Components within the content stream are grouped and reordered homogeneously based upon categories defined by at least one of the plurality of content preferences. The reordered content stream is then received on the requesting computer. Homogenous grouping of the components can be used to take better advantage of available compression algorithms in processing the content stream. Grouping and reordering also can be used to filter components from the content stream. Compression and filtering are especially useful in low bandwidth situations, for example analog or wireless modem connections.

The Elenbaas reference discloses apparatus and method directed to retrieval and storage of “blobs” (binary large objects) in a set of multimedia documents in accordance with a user’s preferences. FIG. 2B shows a hierarchy of document elements of a multimedia document (e.g., a web page). FIG. 6E shows a reordering of document elements that are selected and ordered based on a user’s interest or preference. The “flattened” reordered hierarchy is stored in a user file that can be retrieved by the user. (Column 3, line 51- column 4, line 6; column 4, lines 55-59; column 5, lines 55-59.)

The problem that Elenbaas attempts to solve is quite different from the problem addressed by the present invention. Thus, while Elenbaas is directed to optimizing retrieval of content from storage, the present invention is concerned with improved delivery of content in a communications network.

In order to anticipate a claim, a reference must teach each and every element of the claim. Elenbaas fails to teach grouping of components. The mere reordering of document elements in Elenbaas would not provide a stream that has grouped components, as required by the present independent claims. This is clear from reviewing FIG. 6E, where the ordering lists document elements Text 1, Video 1, then Text 2. Such an ordering does not show or suggest any grouping, let alone a homogeneous grouping based on any particular category. With the lack of homogeneous grouping in Elenbaas, the Elenbaas approach is not able to take full advantage of available compression algorithms. Therefore, Elenbaas does not anticipate the present invention. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

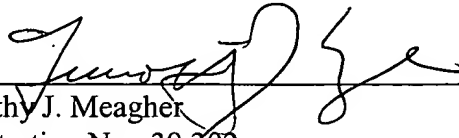
The independent claims (Claims 1, 7 and 13-15) are being amended to more clearly indicate that the grouping of components is homogeneous, based upon categories defined by at least one of the content preferences. For example, the categories may be content type or content stream component size. New Claims 16-19 are directed to these features.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 8/27/04